DONNY CATES ◆ GEOFF SHAW ◆ COVER BY DAVID MARQUEZ
GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY
#1
COMIC SHOP NEWS™
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1646

Look Who's Applying for Guardian-ship!

The Guardians of the Galaxy have one thing very much in common with the Avengers: Their lineup has changed many times over the years. Those changes continue in January as Marvel relaunches ***Guardians of the Galaxy*** with another roster—and this may be the most cosmic Guardians team ever!

Donny Cates & Geoff Shaw, the creators behind the best-selling "Thanos Wins" arc from ***Thanos #s 13–18,*** have reunited to demonstrate that, even after his supposed death, Thanos still remains a powerful catalyst in the Marvel Universe.

"Thanos is dead. But Thanos prepares for everything," *Donny Cates* said. "At the end of ***Thanos Legacy,*** we saw his brother, Eros, dig his last will and testament out of his brother's chest. The reading of that will, and the contents of it, will set the stage for the next huge cosmic storyline for our intrepid Guardians. Thanos's final words will start a war. His legacy is, and always has been, *death.*"

This results in the need for a new Guardians of the Galaxy, so the call goes out—and readers will be amazed to see who responds to the call (although the cover gives a pretty good clue as to who is under consideration to be a part of the team). "Everyone on ***Guardians of the Galaxy #1's*** cover *will* appear in the book... but that doesn't necessarily mean they'll make it onto the team!" editor *Darren Shan* cautioned. "I think audiences have come to expect what a Guardians team should look like, which helped us play both into and against expectations."

"Yeah, space is (as you'll see in issue one) a *very* dangerous place," Cates added. "I want readers to be on their toes with this new book and never feel like characters are safe or that these people are going to survive. As a result, the team you'll meet at the end of issue one are the people who survive the events of that issue. And those events are... *brutal.* To say the least."

Guardians of the Galaxy has its roots in ***Infinity Wars.*** "***Guardians of the Galaxy #1*** takes place some time after the end of ***Infinity Wars*** and deals with a lot of fallout from those events—most importantly the death of Thanos (who was killed in ***Infinity Wars #1),***" Shan said. There are other ramifications from the end of ***Infinity Wars*** that I don't want to spoil, but you will most definitely see them in the first few pages of ***Guardians #1.***"

"I would say the fallout we deal with here is more emotional than anything else," Cates said. "The events of ***Infinity Wars*** have devastated our remaining crew of Guardians. It's made them low. Which is exactly where I needed them to be for this new chapter in their lives."

The cover image seems to indicate that the team will blend classic cosmic heroes like the Silver Surfer with newer stars like Cosmic Ghost Rider, but Cates warns readers not to be too certain of anything. "See, you're just *assuming* that those two characters will still be around at the end of that first issue!!" Cates said with a smile.

Galactus is featured on the variant cover—does that mean that he plays a role in the series as well? "That beautiful cover by *Geoff Shaw & Dean White* was meant to show that almost anyone

Courtesy of your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!

in the cosmos could become a Guardian," Shan said. "And you *will* see Galactus in ***Guardians of the Galaxy #1***... but will he become a Guardian of the Galaxy, especially so soon after he's returned to his status as the devourer of worlds?"

"Everyone is on that teaser for a reason—I'll say that," Cates said. "That teaser is something people should keep referring back to as the series goes along..."

The series really seems to stress the "Guardians" aspect of the team, casting them as the last guard for the cosmos when faced with the continuing menace of Thanos. "Yeah, absolutely," Cates said. "I wanted the Guardians to feel like the last line of defense between the void and Earth. They are the absolute last chance we have of holding back the darkness, and again, as you'll see in issue one, they perhaps aren't even the best people for the job. They're just all we have. "

"And by the end of the first issue, you'll see how the new team really comes to inherit the name," Shan added.

Is there a larger story in the works here? "Oh yeah," Cates said. "I'm somewhat known in the Marvel group for—to put it lightly—getting ahead of myself and pitching plans on books that are four and five years deep. ***Guardians of the Galaxy*** is no different, and we are heading for something... *cataclysmic*. Everything is connected. *Everything*."

"In the first issue, we set up a lot of questions that will be answered in the year to come," Shan added. "Everything that happens has a purpose and will pay off!"

Guardians of the Galaxy #1, a $4.99 comic by *Donny Cates & Geoff Shaw*, is scheduled for January 23rd release. The first issue will feature a primary cover by *David Marquez* and variant covers by *Geoff Shaw, Ron Lim, Gerald Parel, Steve Skroce, Skottie Young, Bernie Wrightson,* and more.

by Cliff Biggers

Witness Captain Marvel's Down-to-Earth Side

For the more than 50 years that she's been a part of the Marvel Universe, Carol Danvers has been involved in a litany of cosmic sagas—but sometimes a superhero wants something a little bit different. Which is why Captain Marvel decides to come back home to Earth—and more specifically, New York City—in the new ***Captain Marvel*** series by *Kelly Thompson & Carmen Nunez Carnero.*

Back to Earth? That might seem odd, considering the mega-cosmic emphasis of such projects as ***Infinity Wars*** and the upcoming ***Guardians of the Galaxy,*** but as far as writer *Kelly Thompson* is concerned, it's a logical choice: "Cosmic stories are fantastic, and they'll always be a part of Carol—her past and her future—but I felt she'd become a little disconnected from the people she was protecting. I felt like there were some really rich stories to tell in bringing her back to Earth after so long away. What's that like for her, and what's it like for the people she protects. What kind of bumps do you encounter when trying to reintegrate yourself into life on Earth. Arc 1 is actually called 'Re-Entry.'"

A return to Earth brings with it new challenges, new opportunities... and new adversaries. (This *is*, after all, a superhero comic!) "It's really important to me that we build up Carol's rogue's gallery, as heroes are only as strong as their villains," Thompson said. "So we'll be both creating some new antagonists for Carol and also updating some oldies. Nuclear Man, our first arc villain, is in fact an old Fantastic Four villain who's a really natural foil for Carol, and I think we've put an interesting spin on him. But we're not skimping on the personal stuff either—we're bringing Carol's best friend Spider-Woman back to the book, as well as highlighting her grouchy friendship with Tony Stark, and we're building a love story."

Of course, any return to Earth means renewed opportunities for interaction with other heroes (and villains) in the Marvel Universe—and Thompson is taking advantage of those opportunities. "With a few exceptions, instead of creating a new cast of unknowns for Carol, I was more interested in drawing on some of the already fascinating relationships Carol has in the Marvel Universe—characters like Spider-Woman, Iron Man, James 'Rhodey' Rhodes, and She-Hulk—while also picking up on some fantastic underutilized characters that I felt might bring something new to Carol—characters like Hazmat and Echo. We'll also have

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SPIDER-MAN

BY STAN LEE & ALEX SAVIUK

WHAT'S WRONG WITH MY IDEA OF YOU AND ME FLYING TO AUSTRALIA?
WELL, FIRST, THERE'S... uh... THEN THERE'S ALWAYS...er...
STAN LEE ALEX SAVIUK 12-10

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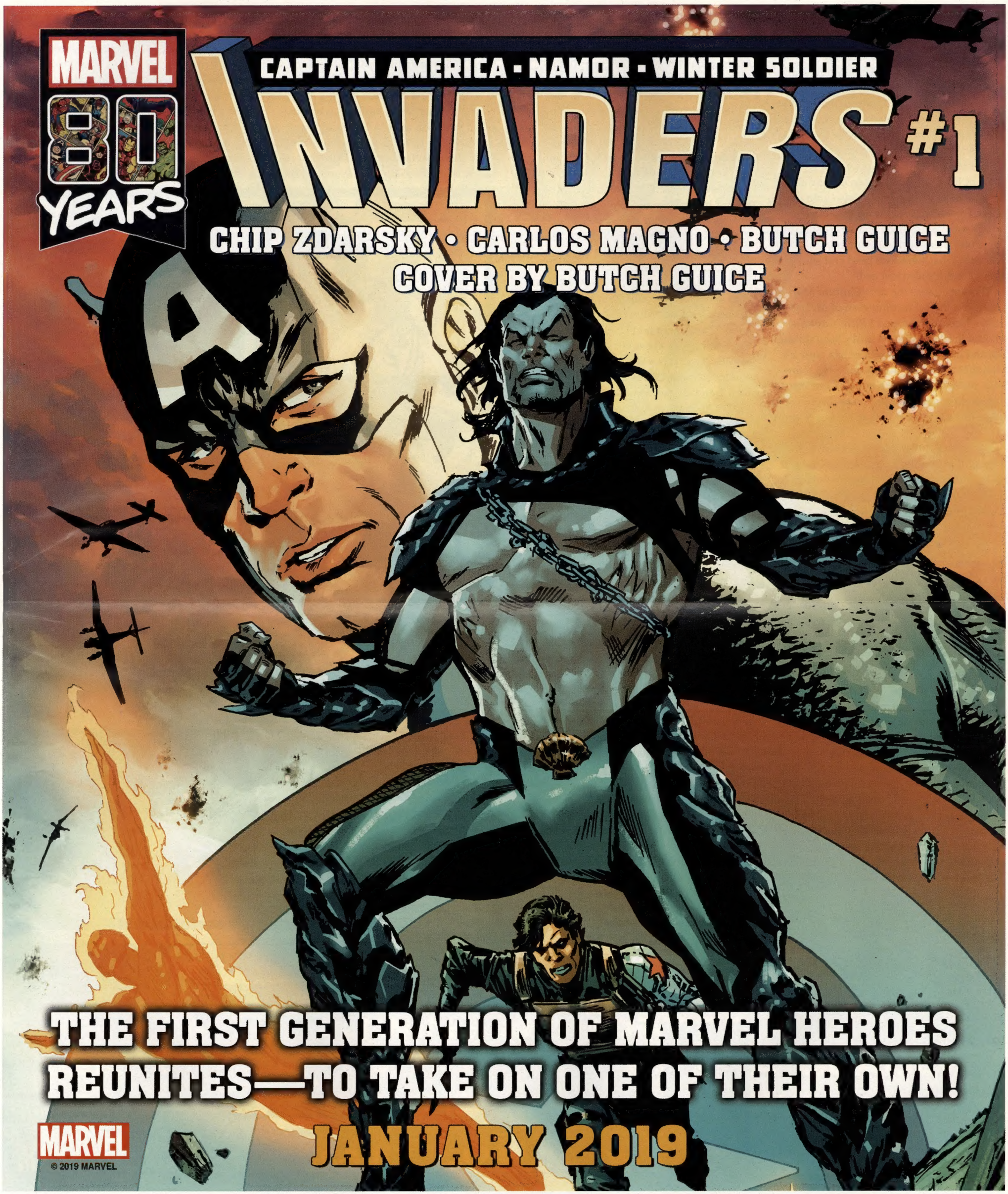
MARVEL 80 YEARS

CAPTAIN AMERICA • NAMOR • WINTER SOLDIER

INVADERS #1

CHIP ZDARSKY • CARLOS MAGNO • BUTCH GUICE

COVER BY BUTCH GUICE



THE FIRST GENERATION OF MARVEL HEROES REUNITES—TO TAKE ON ONE OF THEIR OWN!

JANUARY 2019

MARVEL

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some cameos by Thor and Captain America and a surprise guest in the first arc."

Speaking of that first arc, what can readers look forward to in those first few issues? "We start off very big and bright and traditional—Carol back on Earth punching things, being a hero," Thompson said. "But we've got a huge swerve at the end of the first issue that sets the course for the rest of the first arc. I think it's something new for Carol that gives her a chance to show off some of the things that are so unique about her as a hero and leader. It's also going to challenge her in unexpected ways, and it brings some old friends and new allies into her orbit. Thematically I think it's really in line with what Carol has been and should be about... but it's also just cool!"

Thompson sees the new ***Captain Marvel*** series as a logical continuation of *Margaret Stohl's* recently wrapped ***Life of Captain Marvel*** limited series. "Carol's been through big and important changes of late, and it's vital that we reflect that in our book. However, we're teasing out some of those threads in a slightly slower burn. I expect some of those threads to start paying off in our third arc."

It's no secret that there's a major ***Captain Marvel*** film coming up in early 2019—and while Thompson isn't letting the film drive her storytelling, she's also cognizant of the fact that viewers of the film want to feel like they're in familiar territory when they pick up the comic. "We have to stand on our own, but we made every effort to make the new series very new-reader-friendly so that new fans of the character can jump on board with ease. It's always tough to create something interesting for longtime fans and something accessible for new readers, but I think we've struck a good balance."

Captain Marvel #1, a $4.99 comic by *Kelly Thompson & Carmen Nunez Carnero,* is scheduled for January 9th release. The comic will feature a primary cover by *Amanda Conner & Paul Mounts,* with variant covers by *Alex Ross, Lauren Tsai, Adam Hughes, & Joe Quesada;* Marvel will also offer a movie variant cover.

Mutants Faced with More Bad X-Periences

It's gotta be tough to be an X-Man. The world usually mistrusts them as heroes; society ostracizes them as individuals, and the fates seem to have it out for them. If you thought that things might be improved for the X-Men with the launch of their new series, think again: Even worse things are waiting, as readers will find out beginning in ***Uncanny X-Men #11.***

So how bad is it? Well, Marvel is using the tag line "Devastation" in its promotional images for ***Uncanny X-Men #11,*** and "The Last X-Men" for ***Uncanny X-Men #12...*** and that sounds pretty darn bad!

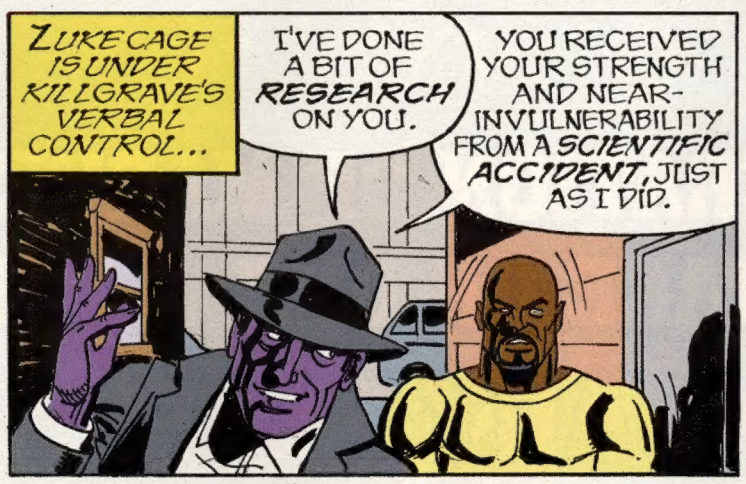
The men to blame for this are writer *Matthew Rosenberg* and artist *Salvador Larroca,* who are determined not to give the mutants a break. "Things are *definitely* not good," Rosenberg told ***CSN.*** "A lot of things the X-Men have spent years fighting are coming back. It is a bad time for mutants and humans alike. But there are two X-Men who are ready to carry the torch of the X-Men. Some fans may have heard of them: Scott Summers, AKA Cyclops, and Logan, AKA Wolverine, are still here. And they have some questions to get answered—and some scores to get settled."

To find out how things got so bad, readers will want to follow the weekly "X-Men Disassembled" that runs through ***Uncanny X-Men #s 1–10.*** "What Salva and I are doing comes right out of 'Disassembled,'" said Rosenberg, "picking up from the very last pages of ***Uncanny X-Men #10***. It's a return of the old, but also something very different and new. While 'Disassembled' is epic and huge, all-hands-on-deck stuff, this is a smaller story. No less important, but more personal and character-driven. If 'Disassembled' is the X-Men all dressed up in their brightest and best costumes, this is them stripped naked."

Astute readers undoubtedly noticed that one of those two "Last X-Men" is Scott Summers, better known as Cyclops. "This is his return, his attempt at redemption, and his quest for certainty," Rosenberg said. "I love Cyclops because he is one of the most complex characters in the Marvel Universe. He has this incredible arc, starting with him as the bright-eyed (pun intended) student; then the student assumes the role of teacher. The teacher finds out just how complicated the world really is. And in classic 'heavy is the head that wears the crown' style, Cyclops is forced to make decisions that he would have opposed his whole life until then. And by the end, the young hero has become everything he stood against until he dies trying to save the people he loves. It is Shakespearian in scope. But now we get to tell a new chapter in this epic. What happens when that fallen man gets a second chance?"

Wolverine is obviously a crucial character in this storyline as well. Does that mean that it takes place after the events of ***The Return of Wolverine***? Does it tie in to that series in any way? "I don't want to say too much, but I can hint it *might* take place after ***Return of Wolverine***, because in our book he's not still dead," Rosenberg teased. "And yes, it is all related."

Rosenberg assures readers that this storyline reflects a pivotal moment in the X-Men saga. "This is the end of the X-Men and the


LUKE CAGE IS UNDER KILLGRAVE'S VERBAL CONTROL...
I'VE DONE A BIT OF RESEARCH ON YOU.
YOU RECEIVED YOUR STRENGTH AND NEAR-INVULNERABILITY FROM A SCIENTIFIC ACCIDENT, JUST AS I DID.

THUS, IT'S ONLY FITTING WE TEAM UP-
STAN LEE ALEX SAVIUK 12-11
WITH MYSELF IN CHARGE, OF COURSE.
I-CAN'T MOVE A MUSCLE-SINCE HE COMMANDED ME NOT TO!

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JEN & SYLVIA SOSKA • FLAVIANO
COVER BY CLAYTON CRAIN

BLACK WIDOW #1

THE TWISTED TWINS OF HORROR CINEMA, JEN AND SYLVIA SOSKA, WEAVE A DEADLY WEB FOR THE BLACK WIDOW!

JANUARY 2019

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beginning of something new. Things have died, and things have been born again. And we're exploring what comes from all that. What the X-Men mean in their final days. What it *all* means at its core when so much has been stripped away. I think we're really trying to make something that fans will remember for a long, long time."

Uncanny X-Men #s 11 & 12 will be released concurrently with another major X-Men storyline: ***Age of X-Man,*** an event storyline that kicks off with a oneshot that leads into several miniseries. Don't look for the two tales to interconnect, however. "***Age of X-Man*** looks awesome, and I'm so excited for fans to read it," Rosenberg said. "Our stories are connected in some small ways, but both can be enjoyed on their own. Obviously I'm supposed to say you need to read them both—which you do!—but the connectivity is small. When 'Disassembled' ends, it marks the beginning of a massive change. The X-Men will never be the same again. Our story is about the last X-Men. What they are doing is... I'll just say that both are going to give longtime X-fans and new readers alike something to love."

Uncanny X-Men #11, a $7.99 72-page comic by *Matthew Rosenberg & Salvador Larroca,* is scheduled for February 6th release; the book will feature primary cover art by *Salvador Larroca* and variants by *Rob Liefeld, Inhyuk Lee, Scott Williams, Ron Lim, Eduard Petrovich, Lewis LaRosa,* and others. ***Uncanny X-Men #12,*** a standard-length $3.99 comic, follows on February 20th.

Duggan Reveals All the Sworded Details

Conan has faced a lot of powerful enemies... but he's about to struggle against the most powerful of them all when he finds himself trying to survive the hostile seas with no food and no weapons in ***Savage Sword of Conan #1,*** the premiere issue of Marvel's *second* ongoing Conan series.

Writer *Gerry Duggan* is joined by artist *Ron Garney* and colorist *Richard Isanove* for a five-issue arc that finds Conan the captive of a pirate crew... and boy, those pirates have no idea what they're in for! But the crew has some secrets of its own... secrets that will put Conan on the trail of an ancient treasure that may be more challenging than he imagined as he finds himself face to face with the Death Cult of Koga Thun.

Duggan told ***CSN*** that the five-part kick-off story arc begins shortly after "Conan has departed Cimmeria. He's a young barbarian searching for fortune and glory. We meet him at the end of a disastrous campaign on the sea. It's a hell of an entrance."

Longtime Conan fans will recognize the name ***Savage Sword of Conan*** as the title of Marvel's long-running black-and-white magazine that had a well-deserved reputation for being a bit more brutal, a bit more mature, and a bit more grim than the color Conan comics. Will that be true here as well—or since this ***Savage Sword*** is a color comic and not a black-and-white magazine, will the tone be more in keeping with the tone of *Jason Aaron's* ***Conan the Barbarian?*** "No, that's exactly how I recall my time lost in old ***Savage Swords***. We're really pushing that boundary, I hope—certainly visually. And some really rough stuff happens to our characters throughout—but especially at the end."

Like many others, Duggan first discovered *Robert E. Howard's* Cimmerian barbarian through his four-color adventures. "I was introduced to Conan through the Bronze Age ***Conan the Barbarian*** comics that Marvel published. I discovered *Robert E. Howard* and the films later. It's my great privilege to collaborate with *Ron Garney* & *Richard Isanove* on Conan's return to Marvel in the first ***Savage Sword*** story."

Duggan is determined to avoid letting ***Savage Sword of Conan*** become a "barbarian versus monster of the month" series, and he intends to do that by "telling good stories. I am buoyed by one of the best art teams I've ever gotten to work with in Ron and Richard. Crom breathed life into them so they could slay on the page for us all! Seriously, it's one of the thrills of my life to be asked to collaborate with Ron and Richard—there's a tremendous amount of real love on every page. There are some amazing things lined up for Conan after our first arc, and you'll just have to wait and see..."

Will there be any links between Duggan's ***Savage Sword of Conan*** and Aaron's ***Conan the Barbarian?*** "Only two bearded men and their adoration for the barbarian from Cimmeria," Duggan replied. "I know what Jason's cooking up, and he's seen our stuff—we're both happier than Conan on a battlefield to see all the amazing Conan stories Marvel has lined up for 2019. Marvel editor-in-chief *CB Cebulski*, my editor *Mark Basso*, and the whole Conan team have been working very hard behind the scenes. There are some big surprises to come."

Savage Sword of Conan #1, a $4.99 comic that kicks off a five-part story arc, will feature cover art by *Alex Ross* and variant covers by *Ron Garney, Rahzzah,* comics legend *George Pérez,* and ***Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*** co-creator *Kevin Eastman.* Look for it on February 13th. ***Savage Sword of Conan #2,*** featuring cover art by *Alex Ross* and variant covers by *Pepe Larraz,* follows two weeks later.

by Cliff Biggers

THERE GOES MY BEST SOURCE FOR SPIDER-MAN PHOTOS!
WELL, AT LEAST THIS RECENT ARTICLE ON THE WALL-CRAWLER AND IRON FIST READS GREAT!
DAILY BUGLE
MYSTERIOUS "IRON FIST" SAVES FBI AGENT FROM MURDER ATTEMPT!

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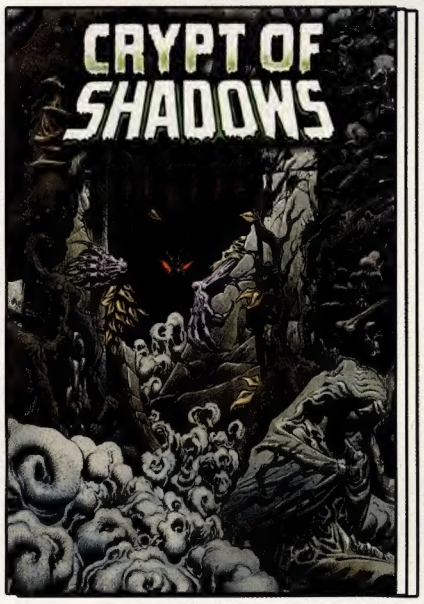
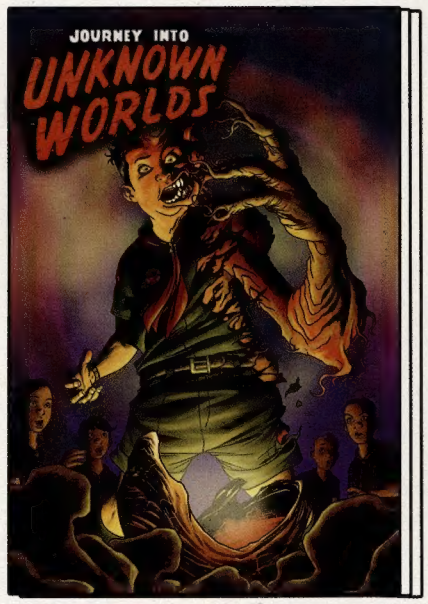
2019 HERALDS 80 YEARS OF MARVEL GREATNESS!

MARVEL 80 YEARS





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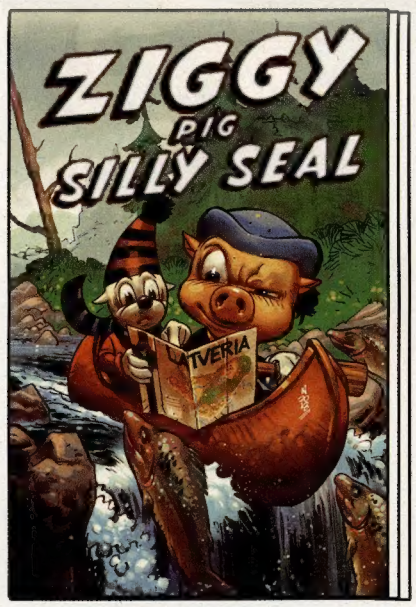

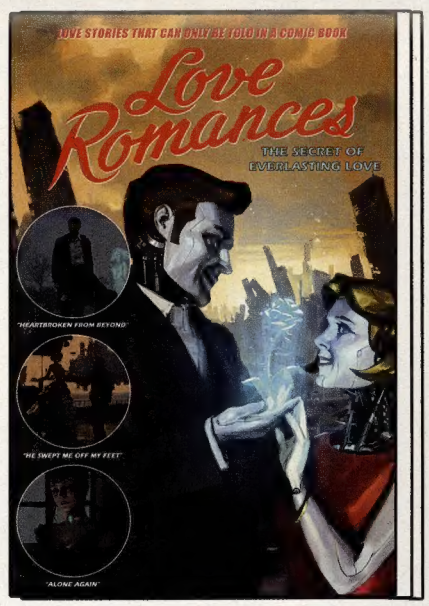
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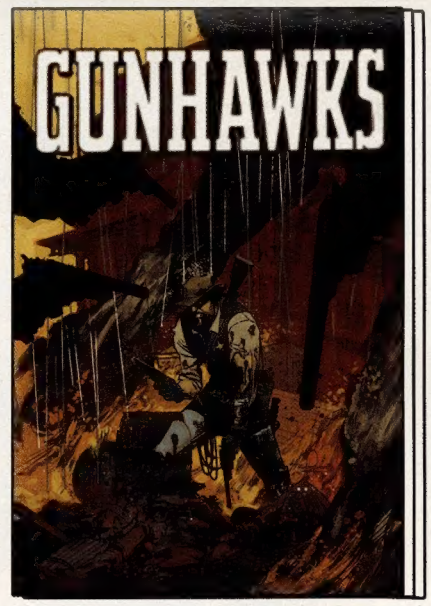

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THE YEAR OF INCREDIBLE NEW STORIES *JUST LIKE THESE* HONORING DECADES OF MARVEL MADNESS!

2019

IT'S THE YEAR THAT WE'LL SPOTLIGHT SPECIAL SERIES FROM OUR PAST - INCLUDING THESE TITLES AND MORE!

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THE WAR OF THE REALMS

#1

SWORDS ARE DRAWN AS THE UNIVERSE READIES FOR THE WAR OF THE REALMS! MALEKITH LEADS HIS DARK ARMY ON A WARPATH ACROSS THE TEN REALMS, LEAVING THE HEROES OF ASGARD AND MIDGARD AS THE LAST LINE OF DEFENSE!

Jason Aaron
Russell Dauterman
Matthew Wilson

Covers by Arthur Adams

THE WORLD AT WAR!

APRIL 2019

Otto Superior

Otto Octavius had his shot at playing Spider-Man—and all things considered, he did a pretty good job! Of course, if you ask him, he did a superior job—which is why he's about to come out of "retirement" and fight crime in his new home city of San Francisco as Superior Spider-Man, the best Spider-Man of all!

After testing the waters in October's ***Superior Octopus #1,*** Otto is about to resume his webslinger role in ***Superior Spider-Man #1,*** the kickoff issue of a new ongoing series by *Christos Gage & Mike Hawthorne.*

As far as Otto Octavius is concerned, "Otto is vastly superior in comparison to Peter Parker, of course," writer *Christos Gage* said. "The fun part about writing Otto is that he *wants* to do helpful, heroic things, but he inevitably takes a villain's approach. Already we've seen him hire henchmen—the great old Spider-Woman villains the Night Shift, who *Mike Hawthorne* and I have fallen in love with—and refuse to let Stilt-Man make him late for a commitment in his civilian identity. That's where the fun of this book lies: Otto using bad-guy methods to do good-guy things.

"Incidentally, Mike—with fellow top-of-the-industry talents *Wade Von Grawbadger* on inks and *Jordie Bellaire* on colors—is leveling up in a major way on this book, and he was amazing before. Just wait until you see it—you're not ready!"

The first time Otto Octavius became Superior Spider-Man, the world had no idea that he wasn't the one and only true Spider-Man. This time around, though, things are different, because that other Spider-Man—you know, the *original* one—is still fighting crime in the Big Apple. So how does the rest of the Marvel Universe react to the idea that there are *two* Spider-Men out there, doing Spider-Things? "At this point, the Marvel-verse is used to the idea that there are multiple Spider-Folk—Miles, Otto, Spider-Women, Spider-Kids—so the public at large views Otto as another ancillary Spidey in the mold of the original. Where things get interesting is with those individuals—both heroes and villains—who know Superior Spidey used to be Doc Ock. We have plans for a major Marvel hero to team up with Otto soon... or is that 'fight to the death'?"

Otto has taken on some pretty powerful adversaries during his Spider-career, but is he ready to face off against a cosmic-class foe like Terrax? This sounds like a pretty major mismatch—so how does Otto even the score? "Otto is confident that his brilliant mind can overcome any power differential... but is he right, or is that pride going before a fall? Sorry, this is Terrax—it's probably more a *beheading* than a fall," Gage said with a laugh. "Seriously, though, the power mismatch between them is a huge part of the story. I was inspired by classic issues like ***Daredevil #7*** (Daredevil vs the Sub-Mariner by *Stan Lee* and *Wally Wood*) and ***Amazing Spider-Man #s 229–230*** by *Roger Stern* and *John Romita Jr*, the legendary Juggernaut story."

Can readers look forward to an Otto Octavius–Peter Parker meeting in the near future? "They actually crossed paths briefly in ***Spider-Geddon #5,***" Gage said. "After that—well, Otto chose San Francisco specifically to *avoid* Pete and his heroic ilk, so Peter won't be showing up in a major way soon, but these two always seem to run into each other eventually, don't they? And it'd be interesting to see Pete's opinion of how Otto is protecting his adopted city... That said, someone Pete trusts will be keeping an eye on Otto—Anna Maria Marconi, from the original ***Superior Spider-Man*** run. And how she responds to realizing Otto is in her town is a meaty part of our tale."

Superior Spider-Man #1, a $3.99 comic, is scheduled for December 26th release. *Travis Charest* supplies the primary cover, while *Mike Hawthorne, Ema Lupacchino, Marko Djurdjevic, Skottie Young,* and *John Buscema* provide the variant covers. ***Superior Spider-Man #2,*** featuring a primary cover by *Travis Charest* and variants by *Mike Hawthorne* and *Mike McKone,* follows on January 23rd.

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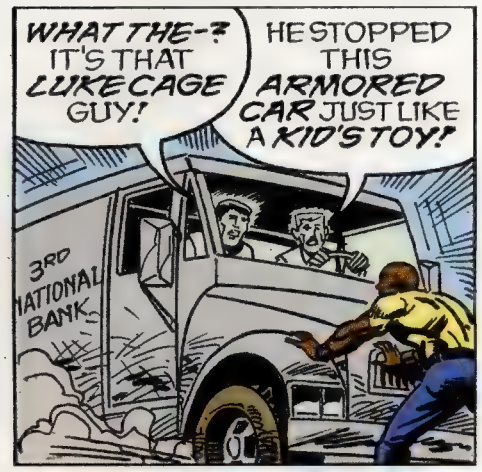

FF: A Wonderful Wedding... Then Cosmic Doom

Dan Slott is really determined to ensure that ***Fantastic Four*** lives up to its "World's Greatest Comics Magazine" tag line.

Five issues into the series and he's delivering a wedding—and not just any wedding, but a major wedding whose background dates back more than 56 years. And the month after that, he's bringing back two of the most powerful adversaries the Fantastic Four have ever faced—but are these adversaries working in tandem, or are they fighting one another?

Marvel Executive Editor *Tom Brevoort* offered a little insight into the decision to feature the wedding of Ben Grimm and Alicia Masters so early in the series, rather than hold off for 50 issues as others have done: "In ***Fantastic Four,*** Ben and Alicia have *always* been in the spotlight. Theirs is one of the key long-lasting relationships in the Marvel Universe, dating all the way back to 1962 and the original ***Fantastic Four #8.*** And given that one of the key themes of the series is family, it made sense to Dan and me that, in the absence of Reed and Sue and the rest of their brood, after a certain amount of time Ben would begin to start thinking about his own future—and that future would have to include finally proposing to Alicia after all these decades."

Longtime readers undoubtedly recall that Alicia is the daughter of one of the Fantastic Four's early villains, the Puppet Master—and rest assured that neither *Dan Slott* nor *Tom Brevoort* has forgotten that connection. "We see the Puppet Master in a story that Dan did with ***Fables*** artist *Mark Buckingham* in the ***Fantastic Four Wedding Special #1,*** which comes out the week before the actual wedding itself," Brevoort said. "But I can say no more about that. We'll certainly see more of Alicia on a regular basis moving for-

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ALPHA
#1

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ward, as the new Mrs Grimm will begin cohabitating with the rest of the team at their new headquarters at 4 Yancy Street."

Marvel isn't giving Ben and Alicia much time to enjoy their nuptial bliss: Three weeks after the wedding in ***Fantastic Four #5,*** Galactus and Doctor Doom enter the picture in ***Fantastic Four #6.*** But are they enemies, allies, or something in between? "At the moment, we don't know what the relationship between the Fantastic Four and Doom or Galactus is going to be—and we won't know until all of those characters come into contact with one another," Brevoort said. "As we've seen over the past couple of years, Doom has been on a quest of self-discovery and redemption, as followed in such titles as ***Infamous Iron Man*** and ***Marvel 2-in-One.*** But having once again stepped into the role of being the leader of Latveria, and with his old nemesis Reed Richards alive again and back in the picture, who can say how long it might be before Victor begins reverting to old patterns of behavior?

"And Galactus remains Galactus—he's an unknowable, unfathomable entity from beyond the cosmos. Anybody professing to have a true understanding as to what drives and motivates Galactus is kidding themselves. He's completely beyond the understanding of conventional mortal life. If he has a relationship with the Fantastic Four, it's inevitably one that he sees very differently than they do from his virtually omniscient galactic perspective."

So what's going on in Latveria, anyway? "Nothing good... but you'll just have to wait for ***Fantastic Four #6*** to see for yourself!" Brevoort said with a smile.

Readers of the aforementioned ***Marvel 2-in-One*** saw Victor Von Doom interact with Ben and Johnny in a relationship that was far less adversarial than in the past. Will any of the events of that ***2-in-One*** story arc play into what happens in "Herald of Doom," which kicks off in ***Fantastic Four #6?*** "Yes and no," Brevoort said. "Yes in that, just as ***Infamous Iron Man*** and other previous stories factored into what *Chip Zdarsky* and his artistic collaborators did in ***Marvel 2-in-One,*** so too will the stories that they told there influence what comes next for these characters in ***Fantastic Four.***

"But that said, Chip's story is Chip's story, and Dan's story is Dan's story. So

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TOM TAYLOR · JUANN CABAL
COVER BY ANDREW C. ROBINSON

Friendly Neighborhood SPIDER-MAN #1

SPIDER-MAN GETS TO KNOW HIS NEW NEIGHBORS
— AND THEY'RE NOT ALL FRIENDLY!

JANUARY 2019

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we're working to make certain that anybody who is coming to ***Fantastic Four*** after any time away doesn't feel as though they've missed a bunch of important stuff by not having read the other titles. So there won't be such a strong connection that it would require an editorial note for people to track, but there *will* be a sense of continuity and consistency to the ongoing development of those relationships."

Fantastic Four #5, a $5.99 comic by *Dan Slott, Aaron Kuder,* and a number of guest creators, is scheduled for December 26th release—and is without a doubt the major event book of the day. The landmark issue is offered with a standard cover by *Esad Ribic* and variant covers by *Alex Ross, Simone Bianchi, Mark Brooks, Elizabeth Torque, Ashley Witter, Jorge Zaffino, Gerald Parel, Marko Djurdjevic, Mike McKone,* and *Jack Kirby.* ***Fantastic Four #6,*** a $3.99 comic by *Dan Slott & Aaron Kuder* with cover art by *Esad Ribic* and variant covers by *Bill Sienkiewicz, Alex Ross, Phil Noto,* and *Pasqual Ferry,* follows on January 16th.

The Return of Conan

After almost a decade and a half, Conan is returning to his comic book home!

Today, *Robert E. Howard's* barbarian hero is a pop culture icon, but that wsn't always the case. From Howard's death in 1936 until the mid-1960s, Conan was all but forgotten, with his adventures only available from fantasy specialty publishers. That changed in 1966, however, when Lancer Book issued ***Conan the Adventurer*** by *Robert E. Howard & L. Sprague de Camp,* introducing a new generation of readers to the barbaric Cimmerian (and paving the way for an entire series of Conan paperbacks reprinting all the *Robert E. Howard* tales alongside new work by *L. Sprague de Camp, Lin Carter, & Bjorn Nyberg).*

Roy Thomas was one of those who noticed the success of those Conan books; convinced he could carry that momentum to comics, he pitched the idea of a Conan comic to *Stan Lee,* who agreed—but Thomas was assigned a relatively new, little-known artist named *Barry Smith* (better known now as *Barry Windsor-Smith)* to illustrate the book.

In 1970, ***Conan the Barbarian #1*** was released, and it began almost a quarter-century of Conan comics at Marvel before the series ended in 1993. After a Conan-less decade, the barbarian returned to comics courtesy of Dark Horse, where he has been a mainstay for 14 years. But that changes in 2019 as the conquering hero returns to his comic book home in ***Conan the Barbarian #1,*** courtesy of *Jason Aaron, Mahmud Asrar,* and cover artist *Esad Ribic.*

"I've literally been preparing for this job since I was 13 and discovered my first *Robert E. Howard* Conan paperback in a used bookstore in my little hometown of Jasper, Alabama," Aaron said. "I devoured every Howard book I could find after that, and I've been making up Conan stories in my head ever since. Now I finally get to do that for real, alongside the amazing *Mahmud Asrar.* So this opportunity means an awful lot to me, and I'm cherishing every blood-splattered, spider-haunted second of it."

"When I was growing up, Conan was one of the first comic books I read. It's partly responsible for making me a lifelong comic book reader," Asrar added. "In fact, it's the first book where I noticed the names of the creators and that being a comic book artist was something I could do for a living. Now, years later, I get the chance to draw the book myself and do it with the amazing *Jason Aaron.* I couldn't be happier to tell epic new tales of the Cimmerian—to continue the legacy that will hopefully make a mark on readers, just like the original comics did for me."

"I can't wait for readers to see the epic scope of the first story lined up for ***Conan,***" editor *Mark Basso* said. "Like our illustrious writer and artist, my intro to Conan came in the form of an old paperback that magically found its way to me as a kid, and this team is harnessing all of that love and respect for the character's history while expanding the Hyborian mythos in a way that's really never been done before."

Alongside those new ***Conan*** comics, Marvel also has a number of classic ***Conan*** collections on the horizon. First up is ***Conan the Barbarian Omnibus Volume 1 HC,*** reprinting the stories that first introduced comics readers to *Robert E. Howard's* barbarian hero. This massive volume includes ***Conan the Barbarian #s 1–26*** along with material from ***Savage Tales #s 1 & 4, Chamber of Darkness #4,*** and ***Conan Classic #s 1–11.*** Not only will this volume include all story content, every cover, and all the letters columns, it will also meticulously recreate the original coloring from those classic comics.

Marvel hasn't forgotten its acclaimed black-and-white Conan tales, either. These stories, which often feature more mature content targeted towards older readers, appeared in the pages of ***Savage Sword of Conan*** magazine. ***Savage Sword of Conan: Original Marvel Years Omnibus Volume 1 HC*** collects ***Savage Tales #s 1–5*** and ***Savage Sword of Conan #s 1–12 & Special #1.*** This massive tome will include not only the Conan stories by *Roy Thomas, John Buscema,* and others, but also the full-color covers, the letters pages, the pinups, the articles, and more.

Also in the works for early 2019 are two volumes of the ***Conan Chronicles Epic Collection*** reprinting some of the best of the Dark Horse comics. ***Conan Chronicles Epic Collection Volume 1: Out of the Darksome Hills TP*** collects ***Conan the Legend #0*** and ***Conan #s 1–19,*** while ***Conan Chronicles Epic Collection Volume 2: The Heart of Yag-Kosha TP*** collects ***Conan #s 20–39.***

And that's just the beginning. Readers can look forward to more original ***Conan*** comics, more classic Marvel ***Conan*** collected editions, and more trade paperbacks of Dark Horse material throughout 2019!

Conan the Barbarian #1 is scheduled for January 2nd, 2019 release; the book will be offered with a primary cover by *Esad Ribic* as well as variant covers by *Mahmud Asrar, Greg Hildebrandt, Jorge Zaffino, Daniel Acuna, Jesus Saiz, Bill Sienkiewicz, John Cassaday, Adi Granov, Kirbi Fagan, John Tyler Christopher, Skottie Young,* and *Esad Ribic.* ***Conan the Barbarian Omnibus Volume 1 HC,*** a $125 hardcover, is scheduled for January 16th release. ***Conan Chronicles Epic Collection Volume 1: Out of the Darksome Hills TP,*** a $39.99 book, is scheduled for February 6th release. ***Savage Sword of Conan: The Original Marvel Years Omnibus Volume 1 HC,*** a $100 hardcover, is scheduled for March 20th release. ***Conan Chronicles Epic Collection Volume 2: The Heart of Yag-Kosha TP ,*** a $39.99 book, is scheduled for April 3rd release.

by Cliff Biggers

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